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Production Goals Campaign

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Peanut raising in the United States has assumed the proportions of a war industry, with an accompanying steady uptrend in acreage and production during the past three seasons.

With a bumper crop anticipated for 1943, expectations are for a total production of 1,493,000 tons of peanuts picked and threshed, or 390,000 more tons than in 1942. The acreage harvested is expected to be 22 percent greater than last year, although the yield per harvested acre will be 20 pounds less than the average for 1932 through 1941, or 713 pounds as against 733 pounds. The 1942 acre yield was 644 pounds.

Peanut plantings increased this year over 1942 about 600,000 acres or 14 percent. Total acreage grown alone this year for all purposes is estimated at 5,002,000. This does not include acreage interplanted with corn and other crops, which amounted to 475,000 equivalent solid acres in 1942 and was utilized mainly for "hogging". Total acreage in 1942, both grown alone and interplanted, was 4,859,000. The ten-year average acreage grown alone in the period 1932-41 was 2,168,000 acres.

Oklahoma, with a jump of 100 percent over 1942, marked up the largest increase in acreage harvested among individual states, although all showed increases. In the 12 principal states where peanuts are grown regularly, the increase was 82 percent over 1942.

Acreage picked and threshed in 1942 totalled 3,425,000 acres. It is anticipated that the 1943 acreage for picking and threshing will be about 4,191,000 if the usual relationships between acreages grown alone and acreages for picking and threshing recur this season. Factors influencing the actual harvest will be weather, labor supply and availability of machinery.

On the basis of acreage intended for picking and threshing and on average weather, the 1943 peanut harvest would produce more than 2,986,450,000 pounds of nuts. This is about 35 percent more than were harvested in 1942 and almost 250 percent above the average quantity harvested in the 10-year (1932-41) period. Growing conditions as of July 1, 1943 were about 5 percent better than last year, or 80 percent of normal. The 1932-41 average was 74 percent.



## State Production Estimated

Production for 1943 in the leading peanut states is indicated as follows: Georgia, 475,000 tons; Texas, 238,000 tons; Alabama, 255,000 tons; North Carolina, 194,000 tons; Oklahoma, 113,000 tons and Virginia, 107,000 tons. Other states raising peanuts include Tennessee, Florida, Mississippi, South Carolina, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico and California.

Peanuts are an excellent crop for the coastal plains of the southern states and may also be produced farther inland with success. The Virginia type is favored in southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina where it grows on light-textured, well-drained soil. The Spanish type is found everywhere that peanuts grow, but is a major part of the crop in Georgia, Texas, Alabama and Florida. Large areas of Alabama, Florida and Georgia grow the runner type of peanut.

Peanuts are a crop that contains no waste. Every part of the plant is used. The edible nuts go into many types of food --- peanut butter, salted nuts, unshelled nuts for eating, candy and bakery goods. The oil is used principally for food: in shortening and oleomargarine, as cooking fat and salad oil. Employed in this manner, it can replace many other oils, some of them formerly imported, that are valuable in making the weapons of war. In an emergency, however, peanut oil may be substituted for other oils used in making explosives, anti-freeze, medicines and other products. Some use is made of peanut oil through sulfonation in the textile industries.

After the oil is removed by crushing, the resultant peanut meal forms a high-protein feed for livestock. Peanut flour for human consumption is also made from this meal.

Peanut hulls may be used as a livestock feed, although they are utilized chiefly as fuel in shelling plants, frequently being blown directly from the sheller into the furnace. Three tons have about the same fuel value as a ton of coal. Peanut hulls also are sometimes used in the manufacture of dynamite.

Peanut hay, the dried vines, is an excellent feed for livestock because of its protein value. It is considered better than stovers and grass hays for this nutritional purpose. More than a million acres of peanuts are hogged off each year.

An inexpensive source of several important nutrient values, peanuts are also a popular food. They contain about 26 percent protein, plus a fat content of 40 to 50 percent. These produce energy and "staying power", vital to a people at war. Valuable amounts of riboflavin, niacin, and minerals are present, and the red skin is almost pure Vitamin B<sub>1</sub> in addition to the considerable amount found in the nut itself.

### Oil Yield High

Peanuts rank higher in oil yield per acre than any other of the vegetable oil crops in the United States. They exceed flaxseed by over 20 percent, soybeans by nearly 30 percent and cottonseed by 200 percent. In only one state, California,



flaxseed grown on irrigated land has a higher yield.

Sectional differences in soil bring some variation, as in the delta area of Mississippi. Especially well-adapted to cotton, cottonseed yields more oil per acre in this area in relation to peanuts than it does in the remainder of the state. A similar variation exists in Louisiana and Arkansas.

The 1943 United States potential oil yield per harvested acre from peanuts is 207 pounds of oil, with a residue of 314 pounds of meal. Approximately 29 pounds of oil and 44 pounds of meal have been obtained from 100 pounds of farmers' stock peanuts in recent years.

National production of peanut oil reached a peak of 174,000,000 pounds in 1940-41, but dropped to 76,000,000 pounds in 1941-42 when a larger percentage of nuts was allocated for food use. About 130,000,000 pounds of oil were produced in 1942-43.

Of the yearly production of peanuts, about 6 percent is needed for seed to maintain a constant acreage. In some states a substantial part of the crop is used as feed and fertilizer, for human consumption on farms where grown, or is sold through commercial channels for human consumption. In Virginia and North Carolina, for example, the actual production of oil and meal per acre of peanuts picked and threshed is small because most of the peanuts are sold to the edible peanut trade. This means that it is necessary to divide the total production of oil by the acreage harvested for crushing only, rather than by the total acreage picked and threshed, to get an accurate estimate of oil yields per acre.

Estimated income to the farmer from the 1943 peanut harvest is about \$180,000,000, on the basis of anticipated production and an average price of \$135 a ton. This is substantially larger than the 1942 return.

Commodity Credit Corporation has been designated the sole purchaser of the 1943 crop of farmers' stock peanuts other than those used for planting in 1944 or processed by growers on the farm where produced and sold directly to consumers. The purchase program will operate through contracts between Commodity Credit Corporation and handlers, including producer cooperative associations, crushers and shellers.

Prices to growers will average \$140 per ton for Spanish and Virginia types and \$130 per ton for the runner type, with differentials for grade. These are the support prices announced April 8 for the 1943 crop. Prices for peanuts of like type and grade will be uniform in all areas, and there will be no "quota" or "excess" peanuts in the 1943-44 marketing year.

Average price for peanut meal f.o.b. all mills is \$15 per ton higher for the 1943 production than last year's price of \$35 per ton for meal with a 45 percent protein content.

Only a negligible portion of the peanut harvest will be shipped out of the United States, except for military use by the armed forces of this country. Peanuts are produced all over the world in large quantities, and are much more

readily obtainable by Great Britain from North and West Africa, for example, than from America. Russia, like Britain, imports from these sources for oil and from eastern growing regions. Little use is made of peanuts for food by these countries. They might be said not to enter into lend-lease at all, as there are no peanut butter requirements for this purpose and only a few thousand pounds are shipped out as nuts. Caribbean exports are also negligible. Shipments to United States territories and general export trade will take about 93,000 pounds only in 1943.

Largest allocation of peanuts this year is for peanut butter. A total of 826 million pounds has been set aside tentatively for this use, 76 million pounds for military and war services and 750 million for civilians. Peanut butter allocations in 1941 and 1942 were 475 million pounds and 675 million pounds, respectively.

A total edible allocation of 1,400 million pounds has been proposed, or 60 percent of the commercial crop as now estimated. With a total production expectation of 2,850 million pounds, about 950 million pounds will be crushed for oil. The 1942 crushing of farmers' stock peanuts totalled 380 million pounds. Although 605 million pounds of peanuts were used for candy, salting and roasting and baked goods in 1941, and 725 million pounds in 1942, allocations for 1943 will probably not be more than 574 million pounds for this purpose.